



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

LINDA LINGLE

GOVERNOR

LAURA H. THIELEN, CHAIRPERSON

Phone: (808) 587-0320

Fax: (808) 587-0390

For Immediate Release: December 4, 2009

DLNR HOLDS PUBLIC HEARING ON DRAFT SHORT-TERM SEABIRD HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN FOR KAUA'I ISLAND UTILITY COOPERATIVE

HONOLULU – The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) will hold a public hearing at 6 p.m. on Thursday, December 10, 2009, at Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School, in Līhu'e, Kaua'i, to receive public testimony on the Draft Short-Term Seabird Habitat Conservation Plan for Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative.

Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) is seeking an Incidental Take License (ITL) under Chapter 195D, Conservation of Aquatic Life, Wildlife and Plants, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Under the state's endangered species law, DLNR may issue a license for take of endangered species that is incidental to an otherwise legal activity, as long as all the requirements under Chapter 195D are met, including approval of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) that identifies measures to minimize, avoid, mitigate, and monitor take, and results in a net recovery benefit for the affected species.

DLNR must obtain and consider input from the public on all draft habitat conservation plans as part of the approval process.

The Draft KIUC Short-term Habitat Conservation Plan addresses incidental take of three threatened and/or endangered species related to KIUC operations: the 'Ua'u, Hawaiian Petrel (*Pterodroma sandwichensis*), 'Akē'akē, Band-rumped Storm Petrel, (*Oceanodroma castro*), and A'o, Newell's Shearwater (*Puffinus aruicularis newelli*).

The draft plan outlines measures to minimize and avoid take of each species covered in the ITL and HCP, as well as measures to provide a net recovery benefit to each species, which is outlined in the HCP mitigation plan.

Copies of the Draft HCP and ITL are available for review at the Hawai'i State Library, the

Līhu‘e Public Library, and online at
http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/dofaw/publications/KIUC_Short-Term%20HCP_September_2009_%20FINAL.pdf/view

The department is seeking comments from the public on the draft HCP.

If you wish to provide testimony and are unable to attend the public meeting, please sent written testimony to the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325, Honolulu, Hawai‘i, 96813, Attention Habitat Conservation Planning Associate, no later than December 23, 2009.

If you desire to attend the above meeting and require auxiliary aids (taped materials or sign language interpreter) please request assistance five working days prior to the meeting by writing to the above address.

#

For more information news media may contact:
Deborah Ward
DLNR Public information specialist
Phone: (808) 587-0320